

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND ENCOURAGING SUPPORT FOR EXISTING AND NEW INNOVATIVE PRACTICES AND APPROACHES TO PUBLIC EDUCATION IN A TIME OF ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, Idaho and the nation have entered unsettled economic times that may reduce tax revenues for years to come; and

WHEREAS, an educated citizenry is necessary for the continuation of a republican form of limited government; and

WHEREAS, the current economic crisis requires legislators and educators to consider innovative approaches to public education that will maintain or improve current academic successes while operating with fewer funds; and

WHEREAS, clear and concise goals give unified purpose and direction and create a more efficient public education system; and

WHEREAS, a cost-effective and quality education system requires active cooperation among parents, teachers and students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixtieth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that we:

(1) Encourage the Idaho Department of Education and the Idaho State Board of Education to implement strategies that will make public schools more efficient, allowing education to continue improving while expending less money;

(2) Support efforts that ensure as much appropriated money as possible reaches the classroom where it best serves teachers and students;

(3) Seek to boost student academic achievement by empowering parents and students with increased choices and options; and

(4) Endorse an increase in school district flexibility and discretionary funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the State of Idaho encourages support for existing innovative school practices and for the consideration of new ideas including, but not limited to:

(1) Grade accelerating exit exams to encourage hardworking students who have demonstrated the academic readiness to move ahead in subject matter or grade level;

(2) Early graduation for students who have demonstrated that they are college ready, and further allow a portion of the money that would have been expended at a lower grade level to follow students to their next level of education;

(3) The exploration of other innovations that lead to greater student academic achievement and school improvement; and

(4) The strengthening of programs to ensure every student graduates with a marketable skill.